

In addition, commonly administered vaccines such as the Hepatitis B, and the Diphtheria and Tetanus shot still contain Thimerosal.

In closing, I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter from the FDA Commissioner dated September 11, 2003, listing all of the Thimerosal containing vaccines.

I urge all Americans to contact the FDA to obtain this information to ensure that the vaccines that you and your children are getting are as safe as possible.

I strongly urge the FDA to finally eliminate this dangerous preservative from all vaccines and destroy any remaining stocks of Thimerosal containing vaccines in the interest of public safety.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,

Rockville, MD, September 11, 2003.

Hon. DAN BURTON,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Wellness and Human Rights, Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in response to your letter of July 30, 2003 in which you requested that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) provide you with a list of all commercially available vaccines, including routinely prescribed pediatric vaccines that currently contain thimerosal.

The enclosed table provides the information you requested. In an effort to keep the public advised on this issue, we have posed this information on our FDA website since 2001 at: www.fda.gov/cber/vaccine/thimerosal.htm. We have been updating the website as new information becomes available.

We wish to assure you that FDA is committed to help ensure the safety and effectiveness of all vaccines. Vaccines continue to prevent serious illness and death, and the benefits of vaccination continue to outweigh the risks. Furthermore, FDA does recognize and support the Public Health Services' goal of reducing exposure to mercury. At this time, none of the routinely recommended pediatric vaccines (for children 5 years of age or under) contain thimerosal as a preservative. The routinely recommended vaccines are: Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine (Hib), Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV), Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (DTaP), Hepatitis B Vaccine (HepB), Measles, Mumps and Rubella Virus Vaccine (MMR), Varicella Vaccine, and the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine.

Thank you again for your continued interest in the safety of vaccines. If you have further questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

MARK B. MCCLELLAN, M.D., PH.D.,
Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

TABLE.—THIMEROSAL AND EXPANDED LIST OF VACCINES

(Thimerosal content in currently manufactured U.S. licensed vaccines)

Vaccine/trade name	Manufacturer	Thimerosal concentration ¹	Mercury
Anthrax: Anthrax vaccine	BioPort Corporation	0	0
DtaP:			
Tripedia ²	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	<0.0002%	<.05 µg/0.5 mL dose.
Infanrix	GlaxoSmithKline	0	0
Daptacel	Aventis Pasteur, Ltd.	0	0
DTaP-HepB-IPV: Pediarix	GlaxoSmithKline	<0.000005%	<0.0125 µg/0.5 mL dose.
DT: No Trade Name	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	<0.00012% (single dose)	<0.3 µg/0.5 mL dose.
		0.01% (multi-dose)	25 µg/0.5 mL dose.
	Aventis Pasteur, Ltd.	0.01%	25 µg/0.5 mL dose.
Td:			
No Trade Name	Mass Public Health	0.0033%	8.3 µg/0.5 mL dose.
	Aventis Pasteur Inc.	0.01%	25 µg/0.5 mL dose.
	Aventis Pasteur Inc.	0.01%	25 µg/0.5 mL dose.
TT: No Trade Name	Aventis Pasteur Inc.	0.01%	25 µg/0.5 mL dose.
Hib:			
ActHIB/OmnihIB ³	Aventis Pasteur, SA	0	0
HibTITER	Wyeth-Lederle	0	0
PedvaxHIB liquid	Merck	0	0
Hib/HepB: COMVAX ⁴	Merck	0	0
Hepatitis B:			
Engerix-B	GlaxoSmithKline	<0.0002%	<0.5 µg/0.5 mL dose.
Recombivex HB ⁵	Merck		
Pediatric/adolescent		0	0
Adult (adolescent)		0	0
Adult (adolescent)		0.005%	25 µg/1.0 mL dose.
Dialysis		0.005%	25 µg/1.0 mL dose.
Hepatitis A:			
Havrix	GlaxoSmithKline	0	0
Vaqta	Merck	0	0
HepA/HepB: Twinrix	GlaxoSmithKline	<0.0002%	<1 µg/mL dose.
IPV:			
IPOL	Aventis Pasteur, SA	0	0
Poliovax	Aventis Pasteur, Ltd.	0	0
Influenza:			
Fluzone ⁶	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	0.01%	25 µg/0.5 mL dose.
Fluvirin	Evans	0.01%	24.5 µg/0.5 mL dose.
Fluzone (Preservative Free)	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	≤0.0004%	≤1 µg/0.5 mL dose.
			≤0.5 µg/0.25 mL dose.
Fluvirin (Preservative Free)	Evans	<0.0004%	<1 µg/0.5 mL dose.
Influenza, live FluMist	Medimmune	0	0
Japanese Encephalitis ⁷ : JE-VAX	BIKEN	0.007%	35 µg/1.0 mL dose.
			17.5 µg/0.5 mL dose.
MMR: MMR-II	Merck	0	0
Meningococcal: Menomune A, C. AC and A/C/Y/W-135	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	0.01% (multidose)	25 µg/dose.
		0 (single dose)	0
Pneumococcal:			
Pneumovax 23	Lederle Laboratories	0	0
	Merck	0	0
Rabies:			
IMOVAX	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	0	0
Rabavert	Chiron Behring	0	0
Typhoid Fever:			
Typhim Vi	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	0	0
Typhoid Ty21a	Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute	0	0
Varicella: Varivax	Merck	0	0
Yellow Fever: Y-F-Vax	Aventis Pasteur, Inc.	0	0

¹ Thimerosal is approximately 50% mercury (Hg) by weight. A 0.01% solution (1 part per 10,000) of thimerosal contains 50 µg of Hg per 1 mL dose or 25 µg of Hg per 0.5 mL dose.

² Aventis Pasteur's Tripedia may be used to reconstitute ActHib to form TriHibit. TriHibit is indicated for use in children 15 to 18 months of age.

³ OmnihIB is manufactured by Aventis Pasteur but distributed by GlaxoSmithKline.

⁴ COMVAX is not licensed for use under 6 weeks of age because of decreased response to the Hib component.

⁵ Merck's Hepatitis B vaccine for adults (adolescents) is available in both preservative-free and thimerosal-containing presentations.

⁶ Children under 3 years of age receive a half-dose of vaccine, i.e., 0.25 mL (12.5 µg mercury/dose.)

⁷ JE-VAX is manufactured by BIKEN and distributed by Aventis Pasteur. Children 1 to 3 years of age receive a half-dose of vaccine, i.e., 0.5 mL (17.5 µg mercury/dose).

DISTURBING NEWS REGARDING IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, each morning these recent months we are awakened with the disturbing news that one, two, perhaps three, young Americans have been killed in Iraq.

□ 1945

Our tours of duty for the National Guard and for the Reserves are being extended with great complications for many small American communities, and certainly for many American families.

It was just back on March 16 that Vice President CHENEY declared to the Nation that the most important rationale for war with Iraq was the fact Iraq had all of these weapons of mass destruction. And I think as the weeks go by and as the lives of young Americans are lost, that more and more of our American families are asking: Why is it that each morning we hear that the body of another young American has been found, but we hear nothing about the location of any weapons of mass destruction? In fact, that term has almost been banned now from administration speeches justifying the war in Iraq.

So desperate is the administration to make the claim about weapons of mass destruction that incredibly, yesterday, Secretary of State Powell went to the scene of a horrific crime involving weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but it was a crime that happened 15 years ago, in 1988; and no evidence was provided suggesting any weapons of mass destruction had been located that would justify the loss of the lives of our sons and daughters in Iraq.

Now, surely, with thousands of people being paid by American taxpayers at this very moment to comb Iraq for weapons of mass destruction, sooner or later they will find at least a trace. But an honest assessment of this whole weapons of mass destruction question requires asking whether this third-rate tyrant, Saddam Hussein, unable to effectively defend himself and his own family, really ever had the capability to pose an imminent threat to our families here in America. Meanwhile, Americans continue to do most all of the dying, and American taxpayers are asked to continue to do most all of the paying for the cost of this administration's war justified by weapons of mass destruction.

In view of this, more and more Americans are contacting us here in Congress about the weapons of mass destruction question. Many of these people have done so through the organization called moveon.org, a citizens' organization to advance concerns in a way that I think is very healthy. I just want to share with my colleagues tonight the thoughts of some of those people from central Texas who share my concern about the rationale the administration used, how quickly it is walking away from that rationale, and the tremendous cost in the meantime, not only in dollars, but in blood.

Glee Ingram. Glee is a small business owner in Austin, and she writes: "I strongly support an independent investigation of the claims that were made by the Bush administration as a prelude to declaring war on Iraq. Using deception to create support to go to war is absolutely unacceptable. We, the citizens who must reap the consequences of this decision, are due all honesty," and indeed they are. And it is particularly questionable why this administration that made such bold claims about how weapons of mass de-

struction posed a danger to our families now resists a complete investigation of why they have been unable to find them.

Chantal Tetreault, who is a University of Texas student, contacted me saying: "Please support an independent commission to investigate the Bush administration's distortion of evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs. My confidence in the government is shattered and will only be restored if the American people are given the truth about government intelligence prior to the Iraqi war. Innocent Americans have died and continue to die, along with many Iraqi civilians in this war."

I think she raises some important questions, as does Kathy Goodwin, who is an Austin social worker who contacted me saying: "I firmly believe that when we witnessed the bombing of September 11, people everywhere shared our grief and millions in the United States and all over the world have since come to the conclusion that war will not solve all our problems. The terrorism that caused 9-11 will not be stopped through a war with Iraq. We need the truth." And that is what an independent investigation of the whole WMD controversy would get to.

I believe the voices of these Austinites and others across the country should be heeded. We need action now to find out why and what occurred here.

SUPPORT H.R. 693, THE MILITARY DEATH GRATUITY TAX REPEAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor tonight to say to the House and to the other body, the Senate, that we need to pass legislation to remove the tax that is sent to the families of those who have given their loved one to die for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce my colleagues to a young man whose name is Tyler Jordan. Tyler's father, gunny sergeant Phillip Jordan, died for this country. He died in Iraq. He gave his life for this country. Yet, Mr. Speaker, because we have not removed a tax on the death gratuity that will be sent to his family this year, next year his family will have to pay a tax on \$6,000.

Last year I put a bill in that would remove this tax; and it was supported by both parties, Democrat and Republican. It was sent in a larger bill to the Senate, but the Senate could not find the time to pass the legislation. This year again, the House, in a bipartisan way, Democrat and Republican, have sent to the Senate a larger bill with this provision in it to remove this tax on this death gratuity, and the Senate still has not taken the time to pass it.

Behind me are faces of those who have given their lives for this country. Their families next year will receive a tax bill from Uncle Sam. Mr. Speaker, I think when a family gives a loved one dying for freedom, the least that the House and the Senate can do is to repeal this tax.

The history of this is that in the early 1990s, there was a \$3,000 death gratuity sent to the family. It was increased to \$6,000, but the Congress did not take off the tax on the additional \$3,000, so that means on the \$6,000 death gratuity that is sent to the family, a tax will have to be paid. Mr. Speaker, I am going to call on the House leadership, both Republican and Democrat, the Senate leadership, and the President of the United States that we not leave here in November of this year and say to the families who have given a loved one that you are going to receive a tax bill from Uncle Sam.

I look at this young man that I hold up again, his name is Tyler Jordan. His father, Phillip, a Marine, gunny sergeant, died for this country. Yet not only did he give up his father, but also his family is going to be asked to pay a tax. This is unacceptable. There are many issues that we debate here in the House of Representatives, many issues that are so important; but is there anything more important than to say to a family, you gave a loved one for this country. The least we can do is to eliminate this tax.

So I am asking my colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to please help me encourage the House leadership, both Republican and Democrat, that we not leave this year without sending to the floor of the House H.R. 693, a bill that I have introduced supported by both sides, the military death gratuity tax repeal, get it to the floor and pass it. Because I do not want to come back here in 2004 and think that we have asked a family that gave a loved one that they had to pay a tax.

Let me give my colleagues a quick example. On September 11 of 2001, over 292 military families paid a tax on the gift of a loved one. In the year 2002, if this bill had passed last year, but since it did not pass, 1,700 families had to pay a tax on the gift of a loved one who died for freedom in America.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is my hope as I conclude tonight that as we look at the faces of these who have given their lives for America, we look at the little boy who gave his father for this country, that we will not leave here in November without passing H.R. 693 on the floor of this House and let us send it to the other body and ask them to pass that legislation. I am going to write a letter to the President of the United States, send it tomorrow, and ask the President to please get behind this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I close as I do in my district and I did last night: I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless their families, and I ask God to please in his loving way in